WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
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"THE AGRICULTURAL FRONT"

(For Immediate Broadcast)

June....1945

It's June on the Agricultural Front...ushering in warm weather, and long days for planting, harvesting early crops...and haying. Today, the first Monday in June, brings us important news from the War Food Administration. First, I'm going to tell you about the new Department of Home Food Supply in the War Food Administration .....Then, some interesting facts about production and use of food during the war, some news about the dried bean subsidy and Triple-A's new beef production payments.

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Before I tell you about WFA's Home Food Supply activities, I'd like to review a bit of recent news. You know, of course, that the Honorable Claude Wickard has resigned his post as Secretary of Agriculture, and that War Food Administrator Marvin Jones also resigned, effective June 30th. Clinton P. Anderson, member of Congress from Albuquerque, New Mexico has been nominated by the President to be Secretary of Agriculture to succeed Mr. Wickard. He will also act as War Food Administrator.

I'm sure you'll be interested in knowing something of Mr. Anderson's background. He was born at Centerville, South Dakota, and was educated at Dakota Wesleyan University, and the University of Michigan.

Mr. Anderson is married, and has two children. He served as Treasurer of the State of New Mexico from 1933-34, is the one time President of the Rotary International, and was Chairman of the House Special Committee to investigate Food Shortages. Mr. Anderson was at one time a newspaper editor, and he owns a large dairy farm in his home state of New Mexico.

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Home food production, with the accent on Victory gardening, is more important than ever this year. It is so vital, in fact, that War Food Administrator Marvin Jones recently appointed Paul C. Stark of Louisiana, Missouri to the post of Director of Home Food Supply. This new position in the War Food Administration has been created specifically to coordinate all activities relating to production, preservation and conservation of food in the home.

The unfavorable weather in recent weeks has caused considerable damage to food crops...especially vegetables and fruits. And, the prolonged rains have meant that the planting of both garden and farm crops has been delayed. For these reasons, Victory gardens will be an essential part of the national food picture this year. One big phase of Mr. Stark's job will be to encourage Victory gardeners to raise bigger and better gardens...particularly in the areas where interest in gardening has fallen because of the late spring weather.

Four Regional Victory Garden Conferences have been scheduled for the early part of this month, with Mr. Stark attending. The meeting for this region will take place in New York City on June 7th. Not only will War Food Administration representatives be present, but also Extension Service directors, editors, the Extension leader in charge of Victory Gardens, and all others interested in gardening and food production will be invited. President Truman urges that we all make every effort to increase the production of food in Victory Gardens. This can be done by planting large, and continuous crops. In President Truman's opinion, home preservation of food is just as important this year as home production...because of the larger war requirements for the commercially processed foods. So plan to grow bigger and better gardens this year...and get out the canner for a long season of canning. That way, we'll have enough food to go around...for everybody.

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Speaking of the National food supply, I think you'll be interested in the contents of a letter Judge Marvin Jones wrote to Congress recently. Judge Jones wrote that he has received many requests for information as to what actually has been done in the production and use of food in this war, as compared to World War I. He said that he knew the American people were increasingly aware of the vital importance of food to the war effort, and he furnished the answers to some of the more general queries.

The United States has produced 50 percent more food every year in this war than in World War I. We on the home front have had about 10 percent more food per person during this war than in the period from 1917 to the end of last war...this, in spite of the fact that there are now 10 percent fewer workers on farms than there were at that time...and that our national population has gone up a third since the period of World War 1.

Judge Jones wrote that during the present conflict, we have been able to supply twice as much food annually to the armed forces and for overseas shipments as was used for these non-civilian outlets each year of the last war.

This really outstanding food production has been accomplished in spite of a shortage of labor, and machinery and many other handicaps. Thanks to American farmers, and home gardeners, who have met our food needs in the past, and are continuing to do so, we have set up a record to be viewed with pride.

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The food production records we've set up will go down in history... but even greater production is needed to meet our increased military and civilian needs this year. Meat is one of the foods that's been short for civilians...and one of the foods in which increased production is needed. So here's some news for you about the War Food Administration's new program to increase meat production.

Under the new program, cattle feeders can get their beef production payments from the county Triple-A office. These payments will amount to fifty cents a hundredweight on good and better cattle weighing 800 pounds or more, and selling for at least the minimum stabilization price.

This is the first meat production payment to go directly to the livestock producer...and it was set up to help increase meat supplies, which are at the moment down more than a third from a year ago. Beef slaughter itself is up about 11 percent from a year ago...but it will have to be increased still more to make up for the lack in hog slaughter.

In order to get the payment, a feeder must certify to certain requirements in his application. First, he must certify that he owned the cattle at least thirty days before their sale...second, that the cattle weighed at least 800 pounds when sold...third, that the cattle brought the minimum price for good or better grades... and fourth, that the cattle were sold to a licensed slaughterer for slaughter.

For any further details, you can apply for information to the county Triple-A office.

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And here's an item about the dry edible bean price support subsidy which will interest you. This program was scheduled to expire as of June 30, 1945. But it has now been extended to the 31st of August,

This extension is important for two reasons:

First: it is customary for bean dealers and producers to withhold part of their stocks until late July, to replace the bean crop which may be damaged. So, with the program extended until the end of August, dealers and producers will be able to take advantage of the subsidy program.

The second reason is that dealers also retain stocks of beans to serve the trade until the new crop is harvested...so here again, the time extension will assure them subsidy payments.

This subsidy program is designed to compensate dealers for the difference between the support prices paid to farmers, and the lower ceiling prices will prevail in civilian trade channels for most classes of beans. So, the time extension from June 30th to August 31, implements and carries out the functions of the dry edible bean price support program.

And now, here's just a word before I go about something that's as vital to our nation at war as food production. I mean the Seventh War Loan Drive...and the need for every American to buy an extra bond or two.

Just as the Victory in Europe has by no means ended the need for full wartime food production...so V-E day has not meant the end of the need for planes, guns..... ammunition, and all the material of war that your bond purchases buy. Just as there is need for more food...longer supply lines to the Pacific war theatre...just so great is the need for tools of war to travel along those supply lines to our fighting men.

So, for the month ahead, until we meet again on the Agricultural Front, and until the day of final Victory...keep these two important things in mind...First, produce as much food as you can...grow bigger and better Victory gardens...put up food at home; and second Buy War Bonds...put the Seventh War Loan Drive over the top for Victory.